Agriculture Profile

Dawson Creek District

Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

85-3862/

BC
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1984
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ISBN 0-7726-0141-0

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Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

VICTORIA, B.C.

AUGUST, 1984

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data
Main entry under title:
Dawson Creek District

(Agriculture profile, ISSN 0710-3042)
Produced by Policy Development and Economics Division. Cf. Acknowledgements.
Revision of: McFadden, M., 1955- . Regional profile for Dawson Creek District Office area. 1980.
ISBN 0-7726-0141-0

1. Agriculture - Economic aspects - British Columbia - Dawson Creek Region. 2. Agriculture - British Columbia - Dawson Creek Region. I. McFadden, M., 1955- . Regional profile for Dawson Creek District Office area. II. British Columbia. Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Policy Development and Economics Division. III. Series.

HD1790.B7D38 1984 338.1'09711'1 C84-092226-4

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This series of agricultural profiles was produced by the Policy Development and Economics Division, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The report is descriptive, and includes statistical information from a variety of sources. It is designed primarily as an information base for use by Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff in district goal identification and program planning.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and co-operation received from individuals and organizations both public and private during the preparation of this report.

This report is one of a series covering the eighteen District Agriculturists' Office Areas of British Columbia.

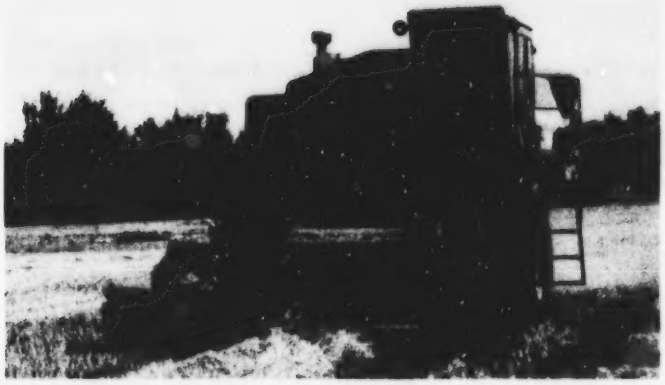
Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Cloverdale
Courtenay
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Duncan
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Oliver
Prince George
Quesnel
Salmon Arm
Smithers
Vanderhoof
Vernon
Williams Lake

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGIONS

AGRICULTURAL PROFILE - DAWSON CREEK DISTRICT

PREFACE

BACKGROUND



The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food has divided the Province into eighteen agricultural districts, each served by a District Agriculturist. Profiles of these districts were first developed in 1980 under the Canada-British Columbia Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (A.R.D.S.A).

The availability of new data from the 1981 Census of Agriculture resulted in a need for major revision. The present profile is an updated version reflecting the Census information. At the same time, the profiles have been expanded to include information not previously available, and many of the tables have been restructured to show a more detailed breakdown of different variables by farm sales.

CAVEAT

As the agricultural districts were designed to meet the needs of the farming community, and as their boundaries were developed to ensure efficient use of the District Agriculturist's time, the boundaries do not necessarily coincide with those of the Census Divisions or Subdivisions. However, statistical data from the Census of Agriculture is currently only available for Census Divisions and Subdivisions. An attempt was made, both in the original profiles and in these updates, to choose census divisions and subdivisions which most closely represent the agricultural districts. In this profile all references to the Dawson Creek District are to the area covered by census division 55-Peace River-Liard sub B.

STRUCTURE

The profiles have been designed to provide a comprehensive source of statistical information on each agricultural district. They have been divided into three sections: an overview of the district, a description of the farms and farmers of the district, and a description of the farm products of the district.

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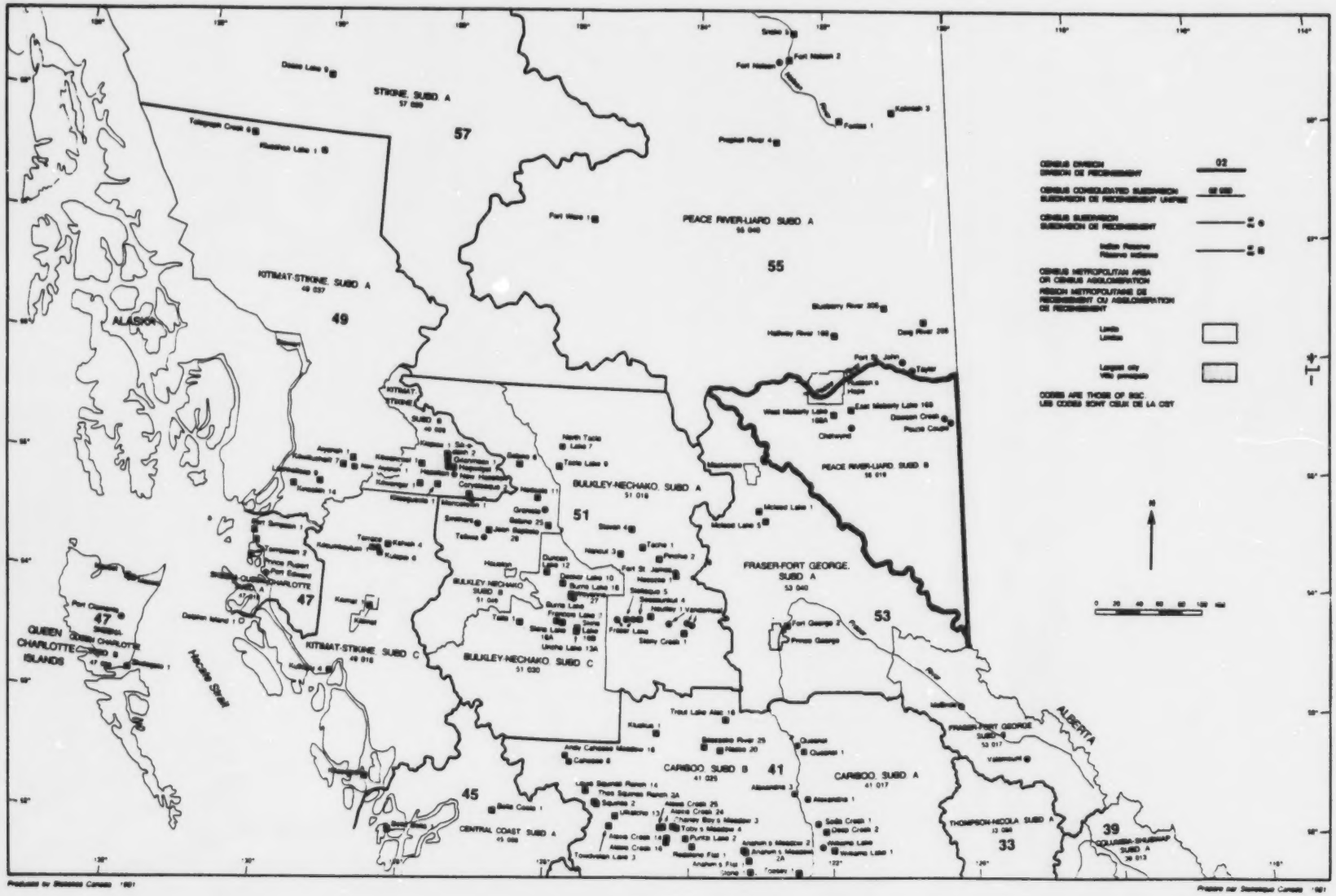
DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT



OVERVIEW: DAWSON CREEK DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

The Dawson Creek Agricultural District occupies almost 3 million hectares in the Peace Agricultural Reporting Region. The Rocky Mountain Trench, which is rolling to mountainous, and the eastern section of the Great Plains, which is largely flat and featureless, are the two predominant physiographic areas.

Census figures indicate a 1981 population of 23,305, an increase of 6.5 percent over 1976 levels. The urban/rural distribution has remained relatively static over the last few years, with the urban population experiencing a slight increase. Total experienced labour force totals 12,315, with the majority employed in the personal services, trade, communication, construction and agriculture sectors.

The major agricultural activity in the district consists of field crop production. In 1981, field crop production was the primary activity of 46 percent of farms. Cattle production was the primary activity of 30 percent of holdings in 1981 while miscellaneous specialty production was reported by 10 percent of operations. Field crop production was the primary activity of 61 percent of holdings with sales greater than $50,000 in 1981. Farm cash receipts totalled $31 million in 1981, 3.5 percent of the provincial total. Field crops and cattle and calves accounted for 28 and 30 percent of receipts respectively.

The Dawson Creek District accounts for 374,856 hectares in agricultural holdings, approximately 17 percent of the provincial total. The total number of farms enumerated by the 1981 Census of Agriculture was 1,003. Farms are larger than the provincial average in Dawson Creek where 64 percent of farms are larger than 225 hectares, average farm size is 374 hectares compared to 109 hectares for the province as a whole. In 1981, 47 percent of farmland was classified as improved compared with 43.4 percent for the province.

Local opportunities exist in the swine and dairy industries. The large size of holdings alleviates the environmental impacts of swine production. The feed grain and rapeseed industries complement swine production, making the Peace one of the lowest cost swine producing areas of B.C. Dairy producers also enjoy a relatively low cost source of feed for their operations. Foreign land ownership in the area may lead to changes in the production profile as varied agricultural practises are introduced in future years.

Additional opportunities for agricultural expansion exist in the region as the Peace is one of the few areas remaining in Canada where there is still a significant potential for new land to be put into production. Extensive expansion is a more significant factor in the North Peace, however opportunities exist for both extensive and intensive growth in the Dawson Creek District.

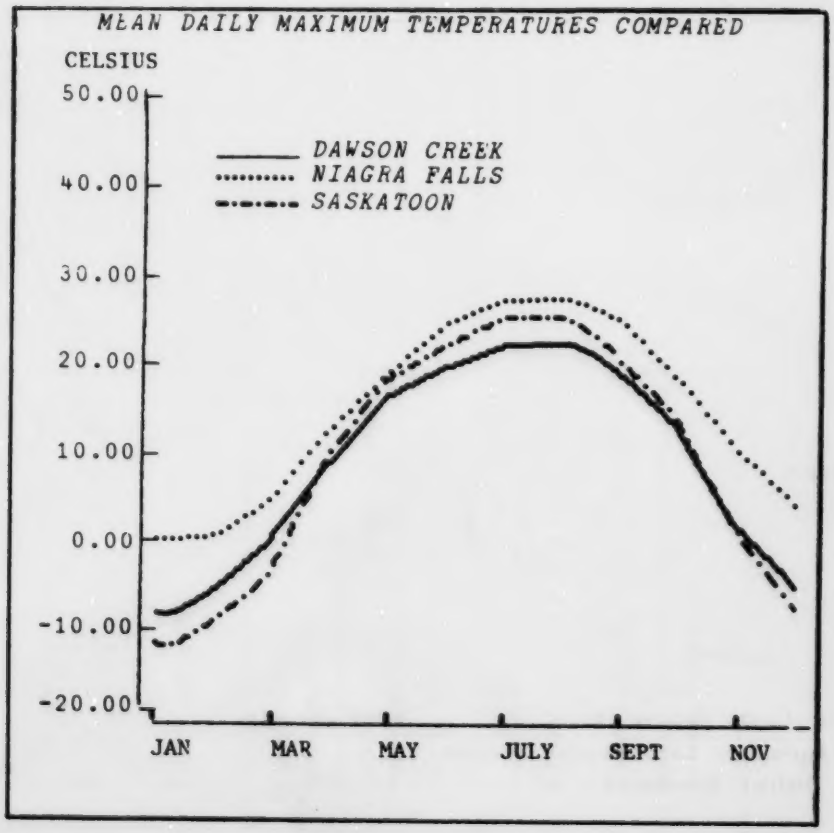
TABLE 1

CLIMATIC DATA

DAWSON CREEK/NIAGARA FALLS/SASKATOON COMPARED

	DAWSON CREEK	NIAGARA FALLS	SASKATOON
Growing Degree Days	1,199.6	2,472.7	1,619.9
Frost Free Period	78	172	117
Total Precipitation	503.7	942.3	348.8

Source: Canadian Climate Normals 1951-1980
Temperature and Precipitation Normals 1951-1980
Environment Canada



PEACE RIVER ALR AREAS

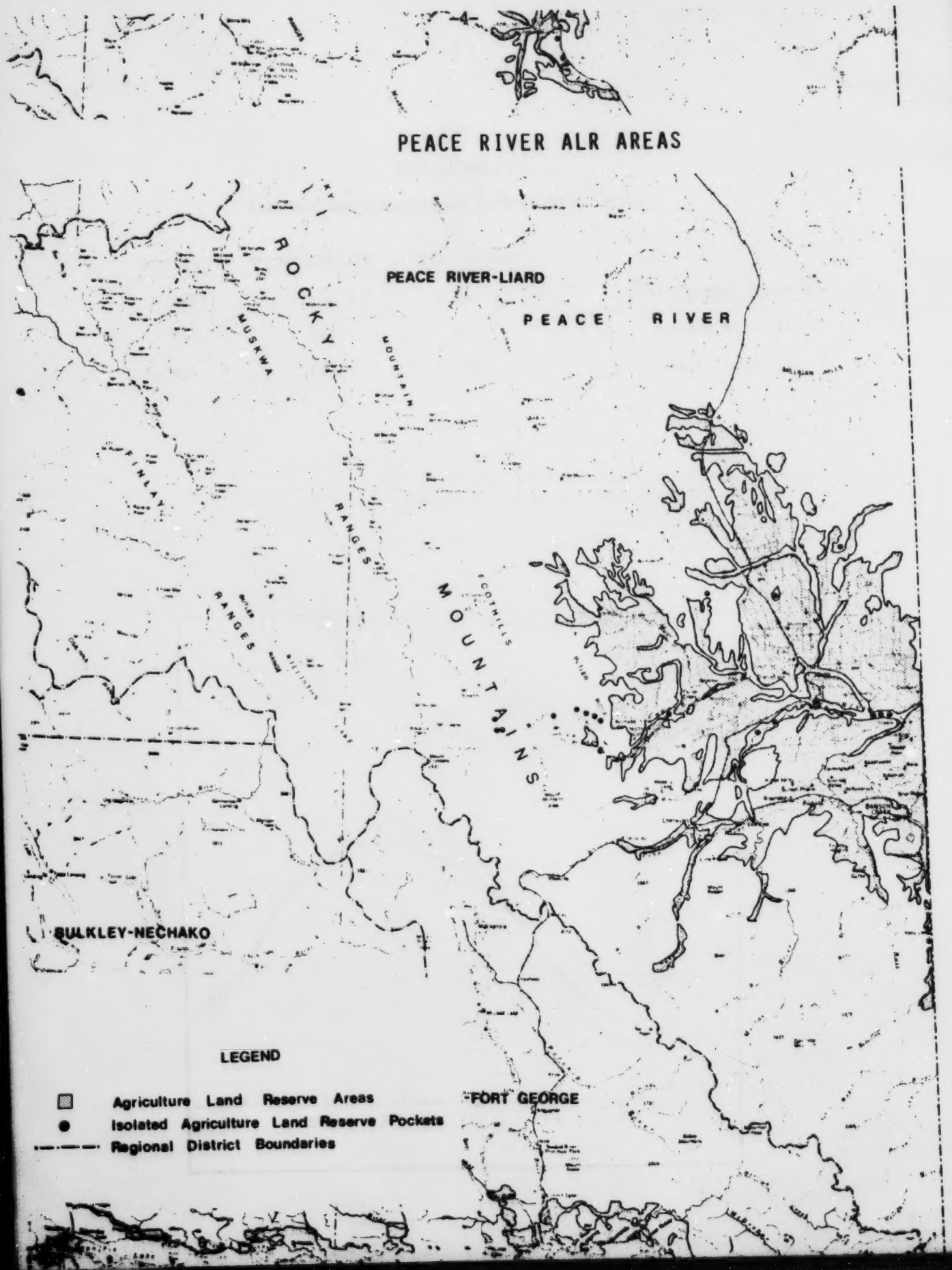
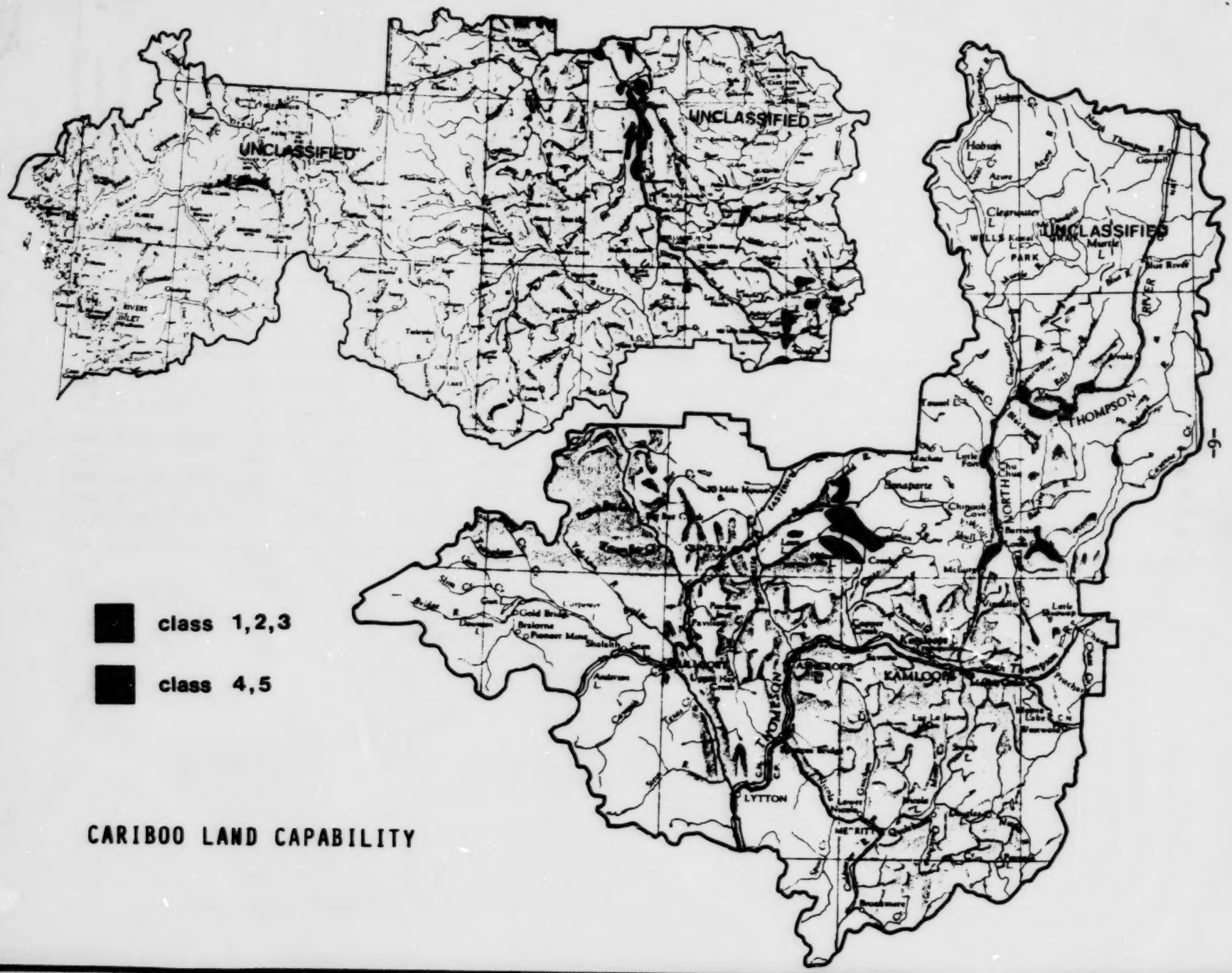


TABLE 2
PEACE RIVER-LIARD REGIONAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AREAS IN HECTARES
SUMMARY TABLE: LAND CAPABILITY CLASS BY PRESENT LAND USE

Present Land Use

	1	2	3	4	1-4	5	6	7	Water	Total	%Total
Forages and Grains	2,440	82,620	92,190	106,190	289,440	60,650	1,280	830	0	352,200	26
Horticulture	0	60	40	0	100	0	0	30	0	130	0
Grassland and Pasture	320	5,970	14,270	20.370	40,930	14,570	930	780	0	57,210	4
Forest	760	23,690	221,600	293,360	621,580	261,070	13,260	10,440	0	906,350	68
Non-Productive Lands	30	930	2,790	3,860	7,610	2,230	100	230	10,110	20,280	2
Total	3,550	113,270	336,890	505,950	959,660	338,250	15,570	12,310	10,110	1,336,170	
% Total	0	9	25	38	72	25	1	1	1		

Source: B.C. Land Inventory Report, Vol. 1, 2
Tallsman Project Inc., 1980.



CARIBOO LAND CAPABILITY

TABLE 3

PEACE AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGION

AGRICULTURE LAND CAPABILITY

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Water Surface	Other*	Total
Hectares ('000s):										
Unimproved	3.8	121.0	365.0	501	1,683	592.5	1,499	80.7	16,059	20,905
Improved**	3.8	121.0	374.6	535.5	1,997	571.8	1,162	80.7	16,059	20,905.4
Percent:										
Unimproved	0.02	0.58	1.75	2.39	8.05	2.83	7.17	0.39	76.82	100.0
Improved**	0.02	0.58	1.79	2.56	9.55	2.73	5.56	0.39	76.82	100.0

*Other includes unclassified urban areas, national parks and unmapped portions of the district.
**Rating if land unit were irrigated and/or drained.

Source: Agriculture Land Capacity in British Columbia, ARDA Project #89077, 1976.

TABLE 4
DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING LEASE DATA IN HECTARES

Lease Type: Grazing

Year	No. of Leases	Area Hectares
1983	1	63.94
1982	0	-
1981	0	-
1980	1	57.23
1980-1983	2	121.17
TOTAL	59	10,838.03

Lease Type: Extensive Agriculture

1983	1	134.00
1982	13	1,456.85
1981	9	1,441.10
1980	27	5,688.78
1980-1983	50	8,720.73
TOTAL	253	37,471.87

Lease Type: Intensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	1	14.84
1981	0	-
1980	0	-
1980-1983	6	61.01
TOTAL	6	61.01

Total lease area in Dawson Creek, 1980-1983: 8,856.74
Total lease area in Dawson Creek : 48,370.91

Source: B.C. Crown Land: Range and Cultivated Land Inventory, B.C.M.A. 1984

TABLE 5

USE OF LAND BY FARM SALES CLASS DAWSON CREEK, 1981-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	190	88	103	137	333	152	1,003
Total Area of Farms	16,796	27,473	13,098	21 317	175,466	120,551	374,856
Total Improved Land Area	7,816	5,578	7,256	10,768	60,513	85,239	177,169
Total Area Under Crop	4,316	3,033	5,083	7,262	39,314	63,490	122,497
Number of Farms Reporting	156	75	95	126	310	148	910
Area of Improved Pasture	1,753	1,385	1,314	1,302	10,368	11,070	27,193
Number of Farms Reporting	82	39	47	61	175	70	474
Area in Summer Fallow	1,014	563	575	1,577	7,058	7,996	18,774
Number of Farms Reporting	39	16	25	42	133	67	322
Other Improved Land Area	733	600	284	628	3,772	2,682	8,704
Number of Farms Reporting	129	56	55	91	223	100	654
Total Unimproved Land Area	8,981	21,915	5,842	10,683	114,953	35,312	197,686
Woodland Area	2,432	1,908	1,020	2,713	8,468	3,708	20,248
Number of Farms Reporting	63	24	29	44	99	36	295
Other Unimproved Land Area	6,549	20,007	4,822	7,970	106,485	31,605	177,438
Number of Farms Reporting	113	62	69	88	238	106	676

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture
December 1983

TABLE 6

DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

NUMBER OF FARMS BY FARM SALES CLASS

SALES	$-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10,000+
1971	464	149	154	144
1976	315	181	146	360
1981	278	103	137	485

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture

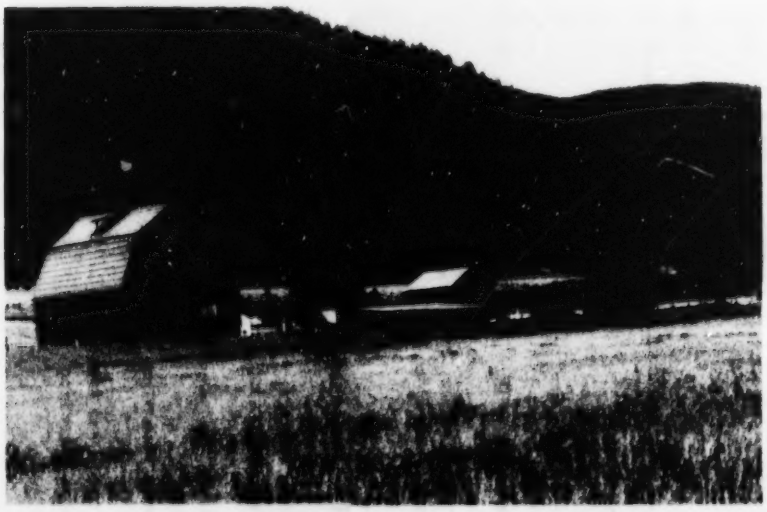


TABLE 7

DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY PRODUCT TYPE AND SALES -1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Dairy	4	3	3	3	8	9	30
Cattle	40	21	32	39	131	36	299
Hogs	3	1	1	3	5	4	17
Poultry	15	5	5	6	1	-	32
Wheat	5	1	6	10	31	27	80
Small Grains	24	20	23	43	102	64	276
Other Field Crops	50	16	11	10	12	1	100
Fruits and Vegetables	-	-	-	1	1	1	4
Miscellaneous Specialty	30	15	16	16	19	1	101
Livestock Combination	8	4	2	4	10	1	29
Field Crops Combination	-	-	1	-	1	2	4
Other Combinations	11	2	3	2	12	1	31
TOTAL	190	88	103	137	333	152	1,003

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 8

DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
1-2 Acres	5	-	-	-	1	-	6
3-9 Acres	5	3	1	-	-	1	10
10-69 Acres	27	7	8	10	6	3	61
70-129 Acres	19	3	10	4	3	1	40
130-179 Acres	81	39	40	37	25	4	226
180-239 Acres	10	1	1	6	4	1	23
240-399 Acres	23	22	18	36	65	6	170
400-559 Acres	7	3	12	14	53	3	92
560-759 Acres	3	3	4	16	54	13	93
760-1119 Acres	8	2	5	8	58	30	111
1120-1599 Acres	-	1	2	4	35	30	72
1600 Acres and Over	2	4	2	2	29	60	99
TOTAL	190	88	103	137	333	152	1,003

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

DAWSON CREEK: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE BASE

Farm Taxfiler's Income

The district has a relatively high proportion of high income operations. In 1981, 48 percent of farms had sales in excess of $10,000 compared to 40 percent for B.C. as a whole. Average gross farm income reported was $43,200 in 1981 compared to $39,959 provincially. Almost all taxfilers in the Dawson Creek District reported some off farm income, with 60 percent reporting wages and salaries.

Agricultural Employment

Over 90 percent of reported days off farm work included non agricultural labour, approximately 68 percent of off farm work was reported from holdings with sales less than $10,000. Farm operators hired an average 8 weeks of farm labour, compared with 24 weeks for the province as a whole. In 1981, farms with sales greater than $50,000 provided 83 percent of agricultural employment.

Agricultural Land Development Act

The 1981 census reported 1 more holding than in 1976. Land clearing has accounted for over 58 percent of A.L.D.A. expenditures since 1971, with over 13,400 hectares cleared during the period 1971-81. Approximately 29 percent of funds are allocated to land breaking, which has totalled 11,900 hectares since 1971. Operators report using 11,918 tonnes of fertilizer on 70,000 hectares of agricultural land in 1981.

Farm Capital

The total nominal value of farm capital has increased from $135 million in 1976 to $404 million in 1981. The per farm average rose from $135,000 to $403,000 over the same period. The proportion of investment in land and buildings has increased from 74 percent of total investment to 79 percent during the period 1976-81. The proportion invested in machinery and equipment has declined accordingly whereas the amount invested in poultry and livestock has experienced no fluctuation. In 1981, total farm capital per hectare was $1,078, about one-quarter of the provincial average.

Age of Operators

The age distribution of farmers remained relatively constant over the period 1976-81 with the largest increase in the 55-59 age group. The 1981 census reported 1 more operator in the area than in 1976, the district now represents 5 percent of the provincial total.

TABLE 9

DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY CAPITAL VALUE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

Capital Value	Sales $250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Less Than $10,000	2	1	-	-	3
$10,000-24,999	3	1	2	-	6
$25,000-49,999	20	7	6	-	33
$50,000-99,999	98	49	14	1	162
$100,000-199,999	117	116	68	3	304
$200,000-499,999	33	57	169	25	284
$500,000 AND OVER	5	9	74	123	211
TOTAL	278	240	333	152	1,003

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 10

TOTAL FARM CAPITAL BY FARM SALES, 1981: DAWSON CREEK DISTRICT

	$250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000+	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	278	240	333	152	1,003
TOTAL CAPITAL VALUE	38,332,453	46,327,751	130,323,869	189,099,854	404,083,927
VALUE OF LAND & BUILDINGS	31,113,975	37,131,139	101,282,114	149,097,108	318,624,336
VALUE OF MACHINERY	5,445,292	6,702,935	17,946,568	28,412,476	58,507,271
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK-POULTRY	1,773,186	2,493,677	11,095,187	11,590,270	26,952,320
AVERAGE CAPITAL VALUE	137,886	193,030	391,363	1,244,078	
RATIO OF CAPITAL VALUE TO MIDDLE VALUE OF FARM SALES CLASS	100	32	13	17	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 11

SALES OF FARMS: PEACE RIVER REGION - 1982

Number of Parcels	93
Area Sold-Hectares	12,967
Total Sale Price	$10,653,073
Value of Improvements	$1,023,558
Residual Land Value	$9,629,515
Actual Land Value	$2,944,176
Assessment Sales Ratio	0.306
Mkt. Value $/Hectare	$744

Source: B.C. Assessment Authority.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS: DAWSON CREEK DISTRICT

	71	76	81	CHANGE
Under 25	10	24	16	-8
25 - 34	63	200	182	-18
35 - 44	145	282	278	-4
45 - 54	111	285	293	+12
55 - 59	48	76	104	+28
60 - 64	32	55	61	+6
65 - 69	27	41	34	-13
70 & Over	11	39	35	-4
TOTAL	447	1,002	1,003	+1
TOTAL PERCENT OF B.C.	2.0	5.2	5.0	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 13
PEACE REGION
FARM TAXFILER'S INCOME 1980.

	# of Farm Taxfilers	Average Gross Farm Income $'000s	Total Gross Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Farm Net Income	Average Net Farm Income $'000s	Total Net Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Wages & Salaries	Average Wage & Salary $'000s	# Reporting Off Farm Income	Average Off Farm Income $'000s	Total Off Farm Income $'000s	Average Income All Sources $'000s	Total Income All Sources $'000s
Ft. St. John (sub A)	1,605	25.5	40,887.4	1,576	(1.48)	(2,378.6)	1,006	12.4	1,534	17.2	27,675.0	15.8	25,296.4
Dawson Creek	1,265	43.2	54,672.0	1,252	0.015	19.0	753	10.8	1,187	15.2	19,284.9	15.3	19,303.9
Peace Total	2,870	33.3	95,559.4	2,828	(0.822)	(2,359.6)	1,759		2,721	16.4	46,959.9	15.5	44,600.3

Source: Revenue Canada.

TABLE 14

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY TYPE OF WORK & FARM SALES, 1981: DAWSON CREEK

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	190	88	103	137	333	152	1,003
DAYS OF OFF-FARM WORK	25,991	12,741	13,367	18,602	27,860	6,025	104,586
FARMS REPORTING	124	63	69	98	180	42	576
AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	1,459	1,480	855	1,728	3,636	913	10,071
FARMS REPORTING	13	10	7	19	34	6	89
NON-AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	24,532	11,261	12,512	16,874	24,224	5,112	94,515
FARMS REPORTING	118	54	65	89	155	37	518

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 15

DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

OFF FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY NUMBER OF DAYS AND FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,000	$50,000+	TOTAL
1-6 Days	-	1	1	3	4	-	9
7-12	-	-	-	1	3	1	5
13-24	2	1	-	1	4	-	8
25-48	2	2	-	3	15	5	27
49-72	6	1	3	5	12	4	31
73-96	2	3	3	5	17	8	38
97-126	11	5	7	8	19	5	55
127-156	6	2	7	5	14	3	37
157-228	35	19	25	31	51	8	169
229-365	60	29	23	36	41	8	197
Total	124	63	69	98	180	42	576

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 16

HIRED AGRICULTURAL LABOUR BY FARM SALES, 1981: DAWSON CREEK

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	190	88	103	137	333	152	1,003
TOTAL WEEKS OF HIRED LABOUR	359	27	119	168	1,308	6,107	8,088
FARMS REPORTING	30	4	15	27	90	92	258
WEEKS OF YEAR-ROUND LABOUR	231	-	54	13	472	3,826	4,596
FARMS REPORTING	7	-	3	1	13	30	54
WEEKS OF SEASONAL LABOUR	128	27	65	155	836	2,281	3,492
FARMS REPORTING	24	4	12	26	79	73	218

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 17

AGRICULTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT WORK DONE, APRIL 1971 - MARCH 1980: DAWSON CREEK DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

	CLEARED			BROKEN			IRRIGATION	DRAINAGE	OTHER	TOTAL
Fiscal Year	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Hecatares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	$'000
1971/72	166	52	9	258	24	6	4	-	-	19
1972/73	71	70	5	642	3	2	9	-	-	16
1973/74	543	76	41	256	34	9	14	-	-	64
1974/75	2,191	65	142	1,577	36	57	-	-	-	205
1975/76	2,267	81	184	2,034	36	74	-	-	41	304
1976/77	1,452	115	167	1,002	54	54	-	-	28	250
177/78	1,459	113	165	1,514	50	76	-	1	15	257
1978/79	1,552	127	197	1,158	90	104	-	1	27	329
1979/80	1,424	105	149	694	95	66	-	-	59	274
1980/81	988	181	179	1,330	95	126	-	-	48	353
1981/82	1,312	169	222	1,447	103	149	-	-	41	412

SOURCE: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, A.L.D.A. Branch Records

TABLE 18

SPRAYING, DUSTING AND IRRIGATION, 1981: KAMLOOPS

Spraying and Dusting (any)	132
Weed Control (Hec.)	1,311
Farms Reporting	98
For Insect Control (Hec.)	229
Farms Reporting	41
Irrigation - Total Area (Hec.)	27,501
Farms Reporting	677
Sprinkler System - Total Area (Hec.)	21,063
Farms Reporting	603

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 19

FERTILIZER USE, 1981: KAMLOOPS

Total Area (hectares)	15,643
Tonnes	3,416
No. Reports of Any Use	363
Total Cropland (Hec.)	5,272
Tonnes	1,117
Farms Reporting	167
Total Tame Hay (Hec.)	22,515
Tonnes	1,714
Farms Reporting	210
Total Improved Pasture (Hec.)	1,260
Tonnes	585
Farms Reporting	94

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Field Crops

Field crops, mostly wheat and barley totalled $8.7 million in 1981 farm cash receipts. Virtually all cropland in the district is in field crops, the largest area is devoted to tame hay with 40,000 hectares. Barley and grain account for another 37,000 hectares. Wheat, canola and oats are also significant in terms of crop acreage. The 1981 Census of Agriculture reports that over 75 percent of wheat and small grain area is concentrated in the $50,000+ sales class. However, nearly 65 percent of other field crop area is reported by holdings with sales less than $10,000. Honey is also an important cash crop in the district with 1981 farm cash receipts totaling over $440,000 or 8.7 percent of provincial honey production.

Livestock and Related Products

Sales of livestock and products for 1981 were valued at $15.2 million or 49 percent of total farm cash receipts. Cattle operations accounted for $9.2 million of this total or 8 percent of provincial beef sales. Total cattle herd size increased by 35 percent to 45,000 head over the period 1976-81. The dairy industry is relatively stable with the dairy herd experiencing a 32 percent increase to 1,350 head since 1976.

Sheep production has remained relatively small, mostly in small farm flocks. Predator problems are a constant source of difficulty for the industry and hinder large scale production. The hog industry has experienced significant expansion over the last few years with the hog population more than tripling to 10,400 since 1976. The majority of swine production takes place in the higher sales bracket holdings.

The poultry industry appears to have experienced some contraction with the chicken population declining by almost 25 percent to 23,700 during the period 1976-81. The majority of the chicken production is concentrated in the higher sales bracket holdings. Other poultry products, primarily turkeys, ducks and geese have experienced some growth over the last few years increasing 33 percent since 1976.

Vegetables/Specialty Crops

Field vegetable receipts totalled $115,000 in 1981, potato production accounts for the majority of this total. Census data indicates that there are 12 hectares under field vegetable production in the district. Hothouse vegetables were valued at $56,000, there were over 1,450 square meters of greenhouse space in 1981. Floriculture/nursery is also important, 1981 receipts totalled $83,000.

TABLE 20

ESTIMATE OF FARM CASH RECEIPTS, 1981

DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

COMMODITY	FARM CASH RECEIPTS $'000	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE OF B.C. OUTPUT
Wheat	3,883.00	12.44	44.02
Oats	935.21	3.00	32.19
Barley	3,196.83	10.24	38.82
C.W.B. Payments	2,518.12	8.09	49.05
Canola	716.41	2.30	34.81
Potatoes	69.83	0.22	0.38
Small Fruits	2.77	0.01	0.01
Vegetables	45.17	0.14	0.15
Floriculture/Nursery	83.26	0.27	0.16
Forest Products	232.13	0.74	9.92
Cattle & Calves	9,223.47	29.55	7.51
Income Insurance	1,341.47	4.30	
Hogs	2,117.74	6.78	4.08
Income Insurance	3.83	0.01	
Sheep	204.90	0.66	7.77
Income Insurance	12.04	0.04	
Poultry & Eggs	324.43	1.04	0.24
Income Insurance	0.12	0.11	
Dairy Products	3,280.01	10.51	1.51
C.D.C. Subsidy	130.96	0.42	
Honey	440.92	1.41	8.65
Tree Fruits	0.00	0.00	0.00
Income Insurance	0.00	0.00	
Hothouse	55.61	0.18	0.19
Income Insurance	1.95	0.01	
Other	2,395.88	7.68	3.50
TOTAL	31,216.10		

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 21

AREA IN FIELD CROPS BY FARM SALES, 1981: DAWSON CREEK-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	190	88	103	137	333	152	1,003
Flaxseed	-	-	-	-	39	12	51
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Rapeseed	-	178	227	91	1,984	6,354	8,835
Farms Reporting	-	7	-	4	44	45	107
Tame Hay - Total	2,580	1,982	2,436	3,696	16,308	12,819	39,821
Farms Reporting	115	62	76	97	234	104	688
Alfalfa and Mixtures	1,016	733	1,060	1,790	6,412	5,855	16,865
Farms Reporting	46	17	33	57	119	60	332
Other Tame Hay	1,564	1,250	1,376	1,906	9,897	6,964	22,956
Farms Reporting	79	48	48	54	172	65	466
Oats for Fodder	250	95	249	334	1,202	913	3,042
Farms Reporting	22	9	15	25	56	17	144
Other Fodder Crops	16	-	67	32	245	477	837
Farms Reporting	2	-	7	2	6	4	21

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 22
DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA OF VEGETABLES ON FARMS, IN HECTARES- 1981 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	190	88	103	137	333	152	1,003
Vegetables	0.45	0.85	-	4.09	1.21	5.59	12.18
Farms Reporting	3	2	-	2	1	2	10
Asparagus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beans	-	-	-	0.04	0.12	0.24	0.41
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	1	1	2	4
Beets	0.04	-	-	0.20	0.12	0.24	0.61
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	1	1	2	5
Broccoli	-	-	-	0.20	0.04	0.24	0.49
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	1	1	2	4
Cabbage	0.16	-	-	0.41	0.08	0.45	1.09
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	2	1	2	7
Carrots	0.12	0.04	-	0.36	0.16	0.28	0.97
Farms Reporting	1	1	-	2	1	2	7
Cauliflower	-	-	-	0.49	0.12	0.24	0.85
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	2	1	2	5
Cucumbers	-	-	-	1.21	0.08	1.01	2.31
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	2	1	2	5
Green Peas	0.08	-	-	0.16	0.04	0.24	0.53
Farms Reportin	2	-	-	1	1	2	6
Lettuce	-	-	-	-	0.04	0.24	0.28
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Onions (Dry)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rutabagas	0.04	-	-	0.02	0.04	0.24	0.53
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	1	1	2	5
Sweet Corn	-	0.80	-	0.40	0.20	1.82	3.24
Farms Reporting	-	1	-	2	1	2	6
Tomatoes	-	-	-	0.40	0.04	0.24	0.69
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	1	1	2	4
Other Vegetables	-	-	-	-	0.12	0.08	0.20
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	1	1	2

TABLE 23
DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SMALL FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	190	88	103	137	333	152	1,003
Small Fruits	0.40	-	-	-	-	-	0.40
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Strawberries	0.40	-	-	-	-	-	0.40
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Berries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 24
DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN TREE FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	190	88	103	137	333	152	1,003
Tree Fruits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apple	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Apple Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pear	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Pear Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plum and Prune	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cherry (Sweet)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Cherry Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Peach Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apricot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Apricot Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 25
DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SPECIALTY CROPS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	278	240	333	152	1,003
Nusery Products	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-
Greenhouse Sq. Metres	465.07	986.63	-	-	1,451.70
Farms Reporting	6	4	-	-	10

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 26
DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	278	240	333	152	1,003
Cattle-Total Number	2,934	3,967	19,429	18,774	45,104
Farms Reporting	119	124	202	70	515
Cows-Total Number	1,114	1,621	8,378	7,812	18,925
Farms Reporting	103	119	193	68	483
Dairy Cows-Number	121	82	304	842	1,349
Farms Reporting	42	42	43	15	142
Beef Cows-Number	993	1,539	8,074	6,970	17,576
Farms Reporting	74	98	174	57	403
Heifers-Total Number	572	623	2,235	2,921	6,351
Farms Reporting	73	80	148	58	359
Steers-Number	315	186	998	1,844	3,343
Farms Reporting	42	43	87	31	203
Bulls-Number	73	113	467	441	1,094
Farms Reporting	50	79	163	60	352
Calves-Number	860	1,424	7,351	5,756	15,391
Farms Reporting	89	109	181	62	441
Pigs-Total Number	304	408	3,341	6,341	10,394
Farms Reporting	32	41	54	11	138
Sheep-Total Number	165	1,883	2,163	994	5,205
Farms Reporting	13	13	18	5	49
Horses-Number	831	662	1,604	1,078	4,175
Farms Reporting	127	106	159	50	442

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 27
DAWSON CREEK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
POULTRY NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	278	240	333	152	1,003
Hens/Chickens Total No.	6,162	4,706	8,547	4,245	23,660
Farms Reporting	109	96	116	29	350
Turkeys-Number	238	294	423	539	1,494
Farms Reporting	34	33	39	9	115
Geese-Number	150	148	230	321	849
Farms Reporting	25	27	34	6	92
Ducks-Number	130	138	153	628	1,049
Farms Reporting	22	24	21	6	73

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

APPENDIX

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Census-farm areas

The area of census-farms reported for each subdivision represents the area of land operated by farmers whose headquarters are in the subdivision.

Crown lands, usually pasture land, which were operated under a lease agreement with federal, provincial or municipal governments, are reported as part of the farming operation of the person to whom the land was leased. However, land which was used under a per head grazing permit or fee is not included.

Large areas of timber land or other non-agricultural land held by the operator, but operated apart from the farm business, are excluded.

Use of Land

All farm land is classified according to use under two major divisions: improved and unimproved land.

Improved Land

1) Crop land - Included in this item is the total area of crop land sown for harvest in the census year. Crop land includes the total area of all field crops, plus the areas of fruits, vegetables, greenhouses, mushroom houses and nursery products. Because some crops are reported in fractions of a hectare, there may be slight differences between the sum of the individual crop areas and the total crop land.

2) Improved pasture - All land which was being used for pasture or grazing and which has had some improvements made to it in recent years is included. Improvements would include cultivation, drainage, irrigation, fertilization, seeding down or spraying.

3) Summer fallow - The enumerator was instructed to include in this item land from which no crop was to be harvested during the census year, but which was to be cultivated or worked during the year for weed control and/or for moisture conservation.

4) Other improved land - This item includes the area of barnyards, home gardens, lanes and roads on farms. It also includes areas of cultivated land that were lying idle, being neither summer-fallowed nor cropped, and areas of new breaking that had not been seeded to a crop.

Unimproved Land

The area of unimproved land consists of the total areas reported for 1) woodland and 2) other unimproved land.

1) Woodland - This includes farm woodlots, land leased for cutting, sugar bush and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as timber, fuelwood or Christmas trees. The area of tress planted for wind-breaks was also to be included. It excludes large timber tracts which are run as a separate business from the farm. There is some evidence that changes in the area of this item between censuses may be due to differences in interpretation. This would be particularly true in areas of bushland.

2) Other unimproved land - Areas of native pasture or hay land that had not been cultivated, bush pasture, grazing or waste land, sloughs, marsh and rocky land et cetera, are all included in this item.

TERMS USED IN LAND CAPABILITY RATINGS

Class 1	land is capable of producing the very widest range of vegetables, cereal grains, forages, berry fruits and numerous specialty crops. Soil and climatic conditions are opitimum.
Class 2	land is capable of producing a wide range of regional crops as above with some differences in variety due to minor restrictions of soils and climate.
Class 3	land is capable of producing a fairly wide range of regional crops under good management practices. Soils and/or climate limitations are somewhat restrictive.
Class 4	land is capable of a restricted range of regional crops such as hardy cereal grains, hardy vegetables, and forages. Soil and climate limitations demand special management considerations.
Class 5	land is capable of production of perennial forage crops only. Soil and/or climate restrictions severely limit the land's capability.
Class 6	land is natural rangeland. Soil and/or climate limitations preclude cultivation, but the land may be important in its natural state as grazing land.
Class 7	land has no agricultural capability whatsoever.
UNIMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory dry-farm ratings. They do not reflect either present land use or the state of readiness for cultivation, but only the potential capability if used for agriculture.
IMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory irrigated ratings. They reflect the capabitity for agriculture if the land unit were irrigated and/or drained. They do not indicate whether the land unit is presently either irrigated or drained.
WATER SURFACES	This category includes all non-seasonal lakes and rivers. It also includes that part of the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland , that falls within latitudes 49 N to 51 N.
OTHER	This category includes all regions of the province that were not mapped due to limited agricultural potential, national parks, and unmapped urban areas.

Peace River Region

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Queen's Printer for British Columbia ©
Victoria, 1985